

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052473

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, OAU, XA

SUBJECT: CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS: ISSUE NUMBER 9,
MARCH 3, 1976

1. THE FOLLOWING IS AF CONTRIBUTION TO ISSUE NUMBER 9
OF CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR POST INFORMATION. FULL
TEXT OF CFR BEING POUCHED PER REGULAR SCHEDULES.

2. BEGIN QUOTE:

AF - MORE OAU POLITICAL DIFFERENCES EMERGE (CONFIDENTIAL)

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN
UNITY (OAU) COMPLETED A POLITICIZED EIGHT DAY BUDGETARY
SESSION IN ADDIS ABABA MARCH 1 MARKED BY INCREASING DIFFER-
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ENCES ON AFRICAN POLITICAL ISSUES:

-- DESPITE ALGERIAN MANEUVERS, MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA WORKED SUCCESSFULLY TO PREVENT OAU RECOGNITION OF THE ALGERIAN-SUPPORTED POLISARIO AS EITHER A LIBERATION GROUP OR AS A GOVERNMENT (THE "SAHRAOUI ARAB DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC"). ALGERIA WAS BACKED BY 16 OF THE MORE RADICAL OAU STATES, LESS THAN THE BLOC OF 22 WHICH HAD BACKED THE ANGOLAN MPLA AT THE INCONCLUSIVE EXTRAORDINARY OAU SUMMIT MEETING SIX WEEKS BEFORE;

-- ANGOLA, NOW FORMALLY RECOGNIZED BY 41 AFRICAN STATES (ZAIRE, ZAMBIA, KENYA, SENEGAL AND THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC ARE THE HOLD-OUTS) AND ATTENDING ITS FIRST MEETING AS THE 47TH OAU MEMBER, LASHED OUT AT ZAIRE FOR ITS INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA ONLY THREE DAYS BEFORE ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND ANGOLAN LEADER NETO MET IN BRAZZAVILLE FEBRUARY 27 TO "NORMALIZE" THEIR RELATIONS;

-- SOMALI AND ETHIOPIAN DIFFERENCES ON THE PLANNED INDEPENDENCE OF THE FRENCH TERRITORY OF THE AFARS AND ISSAS (TFAI), A POTENTIAL FLASH POINT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, WERE AGAIN UNDERLINED, AND AN EIGHT NATION FACT-FINDING DELEGATION CHAIRED BY EGYPT WAS NAMED TO VISIT DJIBOUTI;

-- KENYA BOYCOTTED THE MEETING IN APPARENT PROTEST OF UGANDAN PRESIDENT AMIN'S CLAIM TO KENYAN TERRITORY. AMIN, THE CURRENT OAU CHAIRMAN, FAILED TO APPEAR.

THESE DIFFERENCES MAY BE EXPECTED TO PERSIST IN SUBSEQUENT OAU MEETINGS. AFRICAN MODERATES, INCREASINGLY RESISTANT OF ALGERIAN TACTICS, ARE TALKING OF DEVELOPING FURTHER TACTICS TO OPPOSE THE RADICALS. NEVERTHELESS, OAU STATES -- ONE THIRD OF UN MEMBERSHIP AND THE LARGEST SINGLE GROUP OF NON-ALIGNED -- WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN CLOSING RANKS ON MOST INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES INVOLVING THE RELATIONSHIP OF AFRICA TO THE DEVELOPED WORLD.

THE MINISTERS SET JULY 2-5 AS THE DATES FOR THE OAU SUMMIT IN PORT LOUIS WHERE MODERATE HOST MAURITIAN PRIME

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MINISTER RAMGOOLAM WILL BE ELECTED OAU CHAIRMAN AND THE SEYCHELLES (SCHEDULED FOR INDEPENDENCE JUNE 28) BECOMES THE 48TH OAU MEMBER. AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION -- AND CRITICISM OF ARAB AID TO AFRICA -- THE MINISTERS ALSO TENTATIVELY AGREED TO AN APRIL AFRICAN-ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING TO DISCUSS INCREASED COOPERATION.

THE RITUAL CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL SIDESTEPED THE ISSUE

OF ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE
MINISTERS ALSO AGREED TO CONDEMN FRANCE FOR "IMPERIALISM"
IN THE COMOROS, SOUTH AFRICAN APARTHEID AND "INDEPENDENT
BANTUSTAN" POLICIES AND CONDEMNED ANY AFRICAN COLLABORA-
TION WITH SOUTH AFRICA. END QUOTE KISSINGER

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